

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A filter for filtering blood, comprising:

a coiled core with a hollow center, said core having a blood filter layer having a first surface and a second surface opposite said first surface and a spacer layer having a third surface and a fourth surface opposite said third surface, blood flowing more easily through said spacer layer than through said blood filter layer, wherein both ends of said blood filter and surface layers are sealed,

one of said first surface of said blood filter layer and said fourth surface of said spacer layer defining an outer circumference of said coiled core,

said blood filter layer and said spacer layer being coiled so that inside said coiled core said first surface of said blood filter directly contacts said third surface of said spacer

layer and said second surface of said blood filter layer directly contacts said fourth surface of said spacer layer;

said blood filter layer comprising a nonwoven fabric made of fibers having a mean diameter of not less than 0.3 μm and less than 5.0 μm ; and

a casing having a blood inlet in fluid communication with said outer circumference of said coiled core and a blood outlet in fluid communication with said hollow center, wherein blood entering said blood inlet proceeds in two paths to said blood outlet, a first path within said spacer layer and a second path transversely across said blood filter layer and said spacer layer.

9. (previously presented) The filter of claim 8, wherein said blood filter layer completely surrounds said hollow center.

10. (previously presented) The filter of claim 9, further comprising a porous layer interior to said blood filter layer that completely surrounds said hollow center.

11. (previously presented) The filter of claim 8, wherein a volume ratio of said spacer layer is not less than 0.3 and not more than 0.7.

12. (previously presented) The filter of claim 8, wherein said spacer layer has a thickness not less than 0.5 mm and not more than 2 mm.

13. (previously presented) The filter of claim 8, wherein said blood filter layer is a leucocyte removal filter layer.

14. (previously presented) The filter of claim 8, wherein a length of said coiled core between end faces thereof is from two to ten times an outer diameter of said coiled core.

15. (currently amended) The filter of claim 8, wherein said blood filter layer comprises ~~a fabric structure with one or more~~ plural layers.

16. (currently amended) A filter for filtering blood, comprising:

a coiled core with a hollow center, said core having only two layers that are coiled atop one another, said two layers being a blood filter layer and a spacer layer, blood flowing more easily through said spacer layer than through said blood filter layer, wherein ends of said blood filter and spacer layers are sealed and said blood filter layer comprises a nonwoven fabric made of fibers having a mean diameter of not less than 0.3 μ m and less than 5.0 μ m,

an outer side of said spacer layer defining an outer circumference of said coiled core,

said blood filter layer and said spacer layer being coiled so that both sides of said blood filter layer directly contact respective sides of said spacer layer interior to said coiled core; and

a casing having a blood inlet in fluid communication with said outer side of said spacer layer at said outer circumference of said coiled core and a blood outlet in fluid communication with said hollow center,

wherein blood entering said blood inlet proceeds to said blood outlet both within said spacer layer and transversely across said blood filter layer and said spacer layer.

17. (previously presented) The filter of claim 16, wherein said blood filter layer completely surrounds said hollow center.

18. (previously presented) The filter of claim 17, further comprising a porous layer interior to said blood filter layer that completely surrounds said hollow center.

19. (previously presented) The filter of claim 16, wherein a volume ratio of said spacer layer is not less than 0.3 and not more than 0.7.

20. (previously presented) The filter of claim 16, wherein said spacer layer has a thickness not less than 0.5 mm and not more than 2 mm.

21. (previously presented) The filter of claim 16, wherein said blood filter layer is a leucocyte removal filter layer.

22. (previously presented) The filter of claim 16, wherein a length of said coiled core between end faces thereof is from two to ten times an outer diameter of said coiled core.

23. (currently amended) The filter of claim 16, wherein said blood filter layer comprises ~~a fabric structure with one or~~ more plural layers.

24. (previously presented) The filter of claim 16 further comprising a support layer around said coiled core.

25. (previously presented) The filter of claim 24 wherein said support layer is an extension of said spacer layer.

26. (previously presented) The filter of claim 24 wherein said support layer is independent of said spacer layer.

27. (currently amended) A filter for filtering blood, comprising:

a coiled core with a hollow center, said core having only two layers that are coiled atop one another, said two layers being a blood filter layer and a spacer layer, blood flowing more easily through said spacer layer than through said blood filter layer, wherein ends of said blood filter and spacer layers are sealed and said blood filter layer comprises a nonwoven fabric made of fibers having a mean diameter of not less than 0.3 μm and less than 5.0 μm ,

an outer side of said blood filter layer defining an outer circumference of said coiled core,

said blood filter layer and said spacer layer being coiled so that both sides of said blood filter layer directly contact respective sides of said spacer layer interior to said coiled core; and

a casing having a blood inlet in fluid communication with said outer side of said blood filter layer at said outer circumference of said coiled core and a blood outlet in fluid communication with said hollow center,

wherein blood entering said blood inlet proceeds to said blood outlet both within said spacer layer and transversely across said blood filter layer and said spacer layer.

28. (previously presented) The filter of claim 27, wherein said blood filter layer completely surrounds said hollow center.

29. (previously presented) The filter of claim 28, further comprising a porous layer interior to said blood filter layer that completely surrounds said hollow center.

30. (previously presented) The filter of claim 27, wherein a volume ratio of said spacer layer is not less than 0.3 and not more than 0.7.

31. (previously presented) The filter of claim 27, wherein said spacer layer has a thickness not less than 0.5 mm and not more than 2 mm.

32. (previously presented) The filter of claim 27, wherein said blood filter layer is a leucocyte removal filter layer.

33. (previously presented) The filter of claim 27, wherein a length of said coiled core between end faces thereof is from two to ten times an outer diameter of said coiled core.

34. (currently amended) The filter of claim 27, wherein said blood filter layer comprises plural ~~a fabric structure with one or more~~ layers.